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TECHNICAL NOTES

of the

ALASKA FOREST RESEARCH CENTER

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOREST SERVICE

STN PUB

JUNEAU, ALASKA

No. 50

1959 Cone Crop Report for Alaska Tree Species

Annual cone crop ratings for Coastal Alaska were started in 1956. Cone crop ratings are made according to the following system devised by the Oregon State Board of Forestry:

- None - 1. No cones on any trees.
- 2. Few cones on occasional trees.
- V. light - 3. Few cones on 25 percent of the trees.
- 4. Few cones on 25 percent of the trees--many cones on occasional trees.
- Light - 5. Few cones on 75 percent of the trees.
- 6. Many cones on some trees--few cones on 75 percent of the trees.
- Medium - 7. Some cones on all trees.
- 8. Many cones on some trees--some cones on all trees.
- Heavy - 9. Many cones on 75 percent of the trees--some cones on all trees.
- 10. Many cones on all trees.

Ratings by Ranger Districts and for all of Southeast Alaska (all areas south of Yakutat) combined, are shown in table 1. Ranger District boundaries are shown in fig. 1.

Table 1.--Cone crop ratings for 1959

	Ranger Districts							Southeast Alaska	
	Cord-ova	Chat-ham	Sitka	Peters-burg	Craig	Kas-aan	Ketchi-kan	Rating	No. observ.
Sitka spruce	2	6	3	9	6	8	7	7	37
Western hemlock	1	5	4	8	6	8	7	6	37
Western redcedar	--	--	--	10	2	8	8	7	13
Alaska cedar	--	--	--	5	--	6	--	--	2
Lodgepole pine	--	--	--	--	--	--	7	--	1

Reports indicated a generally medium to heavy Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis* (Bong.) Carr.) cone crop throughout Southeast Alaska. Of the 37 areas reporting in Southeast Alaska, ten areas reported a "heavy" crop, 12 reported "medium" crops, nine reported "light" crops, and the remaining six areas reported the crops as "light to none". The Sitka District reported a generally lighter crop than other districts in Southeast Alaska.

Most western hemlock (Tsuga heterophylla (Raf.) Sarg.) reports indicated a light to medium cone crop. Eighteen areas reported a "light" crop, eight areas reported a "medium" crop, five areas reported a "heavy" crop, and seven areas reported the crop as "very light to none".

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The western redcedar (Thuja plicata Donn) cone crop was generally reported as medium to heavy. Reports from four areas showed "heavy" crops, four areas showed "medium" crops, three areas reported "light" crops, and two areas reported "very light to none".

A few reports were received for Alaska cedar (Chamaecyparis nootkatensis (D. Don Spach) and for lodgepole pine (Pinus contorta Dougl.), but not enough information was obtained to indicate a rating for Southeast Alaska as a whole.

Reports from 11 areas on the Cordova District were received. Of these, nine areas reported no hemlock or Sitka spruce cones on any trees, while two areas reported a "medium" Sitka spruce crop.

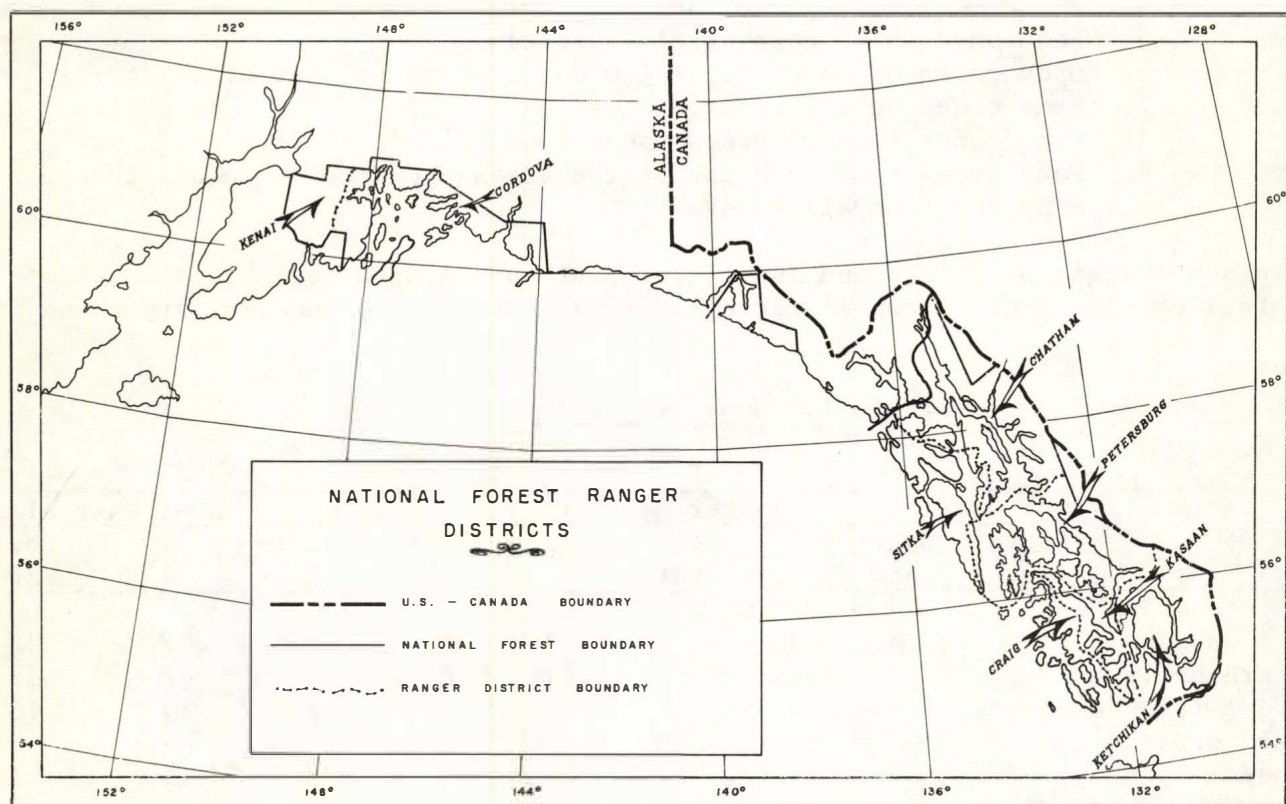


Figure 1.--Ranger Districts reporting.